

REMARKS

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to clarify features and change dependency.

As to the requirement for election of one of the alleged following patentably distinct species of the invention identified by the Examiner as Species A: Embodiment 1, Figure 3; Species B: Embodiment 2, Figure 4; Species C: Embodiment 3, Figure 5; Species D: Embodiment 4, Figure 9; and Species E: Embodiment 5, Figure 11; such requirement is traversed, in that by the present amendment, applicants submit that generic or sub-generic claims, which are readable on more than one species, as identified by the Examiner, are present in this application.

Applicants note that as recognized by the Examiner, upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants is entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, and since no claims stand rejected, applicants submit that generic or sub-generic claims are present in this application which should be allowance, and therefore, the requirement for election of species should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that by the present amendment, at least independent claims 1, 2 and 4 are generic or sub-generic claims, as encompassing more than one specie as identified by the Examiner. As such, since generic or sub-generic claims are present in this application, applicants submit that the requirement for election of species should be withdrawn.

In order to provide a complete response to the election requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Species C: Embodiment 3, Figure 5; and submit that in addition to generic or sub-generic independent claims 1, 2, 4 and dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10, as amended, are readable thereon.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the election requirement and favorable action with respect to all claims present in this application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43873X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melvin Kraus', is written over a horizontal line.

Melvin Kraus
Registration No. 22,466

MK/jla
(703) 312-6600